

A new round of funding for local governments to implement their organics recycling and food recovery programs.

0:18

The circular economy reforms to take the guesswork out of recycling. There's a lot of misconceptions on what's actually recyclable.

0:25

How California's bringing back truth and recycling and state funding helps local governments and businesses tackle waste pollution.

0:32

Cal recycles monthly public meetings starts now.

0:37

Good morning. Thanks for joining us. For CalRecycle's February 20,24 Monthly Public Meeting.

0:43

This meeting is for Californians by Californians. As we work together to protect our communities and fight climate change.

0:50

Before we begin, please look around and identify the two exits closest to you in the event of a fire alarm, we're required to evacuate.

0:58

Please take your valuables and use the ceiling mounted exit signs. Do not use the elevators.

1:03

If you cannot use the stairs, you will be directed to a protective vestibule inside a stairwell. Should we have to relocate out of the building?

1:10

Remember to follow traffic signals and exercise caution. Crossing the street. Now, here's information about our Spanish language interpretation.

1:20

Language shouldn't be a barrier when it comes to protecting our air, water and land. CalRecycle is simulcasting this meeting in both English and Spanish.

1:28

Click the public meeting banner at the top of CalRecycle.ca.gov for a link to our webcasts in English and Spanish.

1:35

If you're attending this meeting in person in Byron Sher Auditorium, we have Spanish interpretation devices available.

1:41

Let our team on the left hand side of the dais know if you need one. (In Spanish)

1:47

(In Spanish)

2:11

(In Spanish)

2:18

Our first agenda item today is the Director's report CalRecycle director Rachel Machi Wagoner joins us now with some important updates.

2:25

Good morning, Rachel. Good morning, Maria. And good morning to all of you joining us in person and remotely.

2:30

It is wonderful to be with you here today, February 20 is 20th.

2:39

Thank you so much for joining us. And we have a lot of really incredibly important agenda items today

2:45

and so I won't belabor it, but I think the first and foremost thing I was always thinking over the weekend that I would want us all to think about

2:53

as we head into the agenda today and as we head into into February

2:58

and March is really the most recent release of the state of waste and recycling here in California.

3:05

And as we were going through our agenda on Friday, this slide was shared.

3:11

And I think it's very poignant. And so I really wanted my remarks to be centered around this slide.

3:17

And it has a lot of to illustrate in terms of what we've done well and where we need to do better.

3:24

I think the thing that was most poignant to me is that Californians are still generating

3:30

76 million tons of waste as of 2022, which was not a decrease

3:37

from 2021, which tells us that we are still

3:42

we are still making a lot of waste and using a lot of materials that we really could be doing better in terms of reuse

3:50

and reduction all along the supply chain. The good news in my mind on that is CalRecycle was directed by the governor

3:59

and the legislature to develop the first ever statewide zero waste plan, and CalRecycle is well on its way

4:06

to developing that plan and working with our contractor Accenture, to come up with a strategy and policy recommendations for zero waste.

4:16

And I'm looking forward to in 2025 having those ongoing conversations with stakeholders to really help address the,

4:26

you know, nearly I think if we are 40 million Californians,

4:31

that is a ton and a quarter or ten and three quarters per Californian of waste generated annually.

4:38

And I think our focus in 2024 and beyond is to figure out how to get that 76 million ton number

4:47

as close to zero as possible. I think what the good news is that we are seeing here

4:53

is that that 25.8% recycling source reduction,

4:58

compost, anaerobic digestion and mulch number is an indication.

5:04

And as we saw in the media this week, courtesy of the AP in 2022,

5:10

we are doing a better job of sorting and recycling our compostable materials and our organic waste.

5:18

Obviously we are not where we need to be to meet the the objectives of SB 1383,

5:26

but the all indications, as reported by our local jurisdiction, are that the infrastructure is being built,

5:33

the collection systems are being put in place and most importantly, the residents of the State of California

5:39

are doing their part to reduce and recycle organic waste. So a huge kudos to all of our local partners

5:47

and to our nonprofit partners and the residents of California

5:53

for doing their part to reduce the amount of organic waste and really do their part to fight climate change.

6:00

I think the last thing that I would mention about the Waste and Generation

6:05

recycling report is that this is a report on 2022. This is now not to last year's data but the year before.

6:15

And I think that there is a lot of optimism here because we know that the systems that were put in place for organics, recycling

6:21

and reduction and as you all know, my favorite edible food recovery program

6:29

were really stepped up in 2023. And additionally, local jurisdictions are

6:35

looking and making improvements to their recycling infrastructure. So I think the good news for 2024 is that we are moving in the right direction,

6:44

that Californians are doing their part, that they are looking for ways to make additional improvements, and that the partnership

6:51

between state, local government and our nonprofit partners is very strong and getting stronger every day.

6:59

So thank you all very much for doing your part. And we look forward to a very exciting agenda today.

7:06

Thanks, Maria. Thank you, Rachel. And you can find out how recycle state or disposal and recycling report for 2022 on our website.

7:15

That's how recycle that S.A. of CalRecycle is implementing historic

7:21

circular economy reforms to waste less and reuse or remake more. A division of circular Economy.

7:26

Deputy Director Zoe Heller joins us with updates on SB 54 implementation. Good morning, Zoe. Good morning, Maria.

7:34

So it was a busy month last month for SB 54. Thanks to all that joined our question and answer session that we hosted earlier

7:42

this month, CalRecycle answered questions on the draft regulations and provided an overview of our rulemaking process.

7:49

Interested parties are encouraged to prepare their feedback for the upcoming 45 day comment period, which will open

7:55

in the coming months when CalRecycle initiates the formal rulemaking process. The SB 54 Advisory Board also held their first meeting this month.

8:03

CalRecycle hosted the first part of the meeting with an overview of statutory requirements and the Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act

8:10

before facilitating the election of an advisory board chair. The advisory board took over from there to elect a vice chair and secretary.

8:18

Information for future meetings will be provided by the Advisory Board and distributed through our SB 54 listserv.

8:24

Finally, CalRecycle is engaging with environmental justice communities in California Native American tribes to enhance engagement

8:31

in the rulemaking process and the SB 54 needs assessment. Back to you. Maria.

8:38

Thanks so much, Zoe. CalRecycle also held an informational session

8:43

on its draft material Characterization study data for SB 343, California's Truth and Labeling Law.

8:51

Deputy director of policy Development and Analysis Clara Vazeix joins us now with highlights.

8:58

Thank you, Maria. Good morning, everyone. SB 343 requires CalRecycle to get

9:04

a representative sample of recycling programs in the states by conducting a study of material types and forms that are collected, sorted,

9:13

sold, or transferred by solid waste facilities. On this, let's watch a quick video showing what that data

9:20

gathering process looks like. Recyclable or not?

9:26

California is taking the guesswork out of recycling by making sure products marked recyclable are actually recycled in our states.

9:33

There's a lot of misconceptions of what's actually recyclable answering public demand to fix the single use trash crisis.

9:39

California passed a truth in labeling law. It bans false or misleading recycling claims on products and packaging

9:46

like the cheese in Arrow symbol, which many falsely assume means the product is recyclable. The law directs CalRecycle to gather and evaluate data

9:54

to determine which materials and which contaminants currently flow through our recycling stream.

9:59

CalRecycles Field Research and Characterization Unit collects this data from the field for trying to see if there's anything that's not supposed to be there.

10:06

So all this data, we're going to see what people actually think goes in the bin and how much of these materials actually get recycled.

10:13

The CalRecycle data will help producers and distributors accurately label their products to meet California's strict new truth and recycling standards.

10:21

Triple Labels Empowering California consumers to recycle More deliberately lead California to a waste free future.

10:34

Recycle expects to finalize its SB 53 funding report this spring

10:39

following another study in 2027. Recycle conducts additional SB 343 studies every five years.

10:47

Back to you, Maria. Thanks, Kyra. Next on the agenda, CalRecycle is announcing a \$109 million

10:54

in new SB 1383 local assistance grants Division of the Circular Economy.

10:59

Deputy Director Zoe Heller is back, too, with award announcements.

11:06

So as Maria said, we're very excited to announce 109 million to 387 applicants to help California communities implement

11:13

their programs to cut landfill pollution through food in yard waste recycling. The types of projects recommended for funding include green beans

11:21

and countertop kitchen panels for food waste, education, outreach materials, equipment for food rescue and administrative costs,

11:28

including enforcement and inspection programs. To date, California has committed \$487 million to organics

11:36

recycling and surplus food recovery grants and loans to support SB 1383.

11:42

As a reminder, the department's next SB 1383 monthly chat with CalRecycle is coming up on February 29th.

11:49

From 1 to 3, it will focus on capacity planning for organic waste recycling and edible food recovery.

11:56

You can register online to participate on Zoom. You can find the registration link through our listserv

12:02

on our events calendar, on the CalRecycle homepage. Okay. Next up, our award announcement for the Local Government Waste Hire

12:10

Enforcement Grant program.

12:16

First, let's watch a short video on how this program helps local jurisdictions support businesses while keeping communities safe.

12:23

Massive tire fires. Burning for months or even years led California to track the safe management of its waste tires.

12:29

We used to see a lot of illegal dumping of trash and tires. Across the state. More local governments are taking the lead to protect their communities.

12:37

If they're properly stored, there's less of a hazard. With up to \$650,000 in annual funding.

12:42

CalRecycle's Local Government Waste Tire Enforcement Grant program covers costs for things like program, stop administration equipment and travel

12:51

to support local oversight of neighborhood businesses. And the facility that generates waste tires,

12:56

whether it be airports, golf courses, mechanic shop. Local inspectors ensure local businesses meet state standards

13:02

for safe hauling tires, storage disposal and record keeping. They take time to really educate the business owners

13:09

there, ensuring the number of tires going into the facility or the number of tires going out. State funding, coupled with current cycle training and support, helped

13:17

more than 30 communities take control of their waste tire inspection programs. I think that just the fact that we're out there

13:23

doing these inspections really helps out our communities. Protecting Californians, building trust with local businesses

13:30

and advancing California's circular waste free future.

13:39

CalRecycle received 30 applications from eligible city and county applicants for the \$5.8 million in funding.

13:46

You can find the list of grantees in the public notice link to today's agenda. All right.

13:52

Up next, the city of Oroville will receive a \$171,000

13:57

tiger derived aggregate grant award for an infrastructure project. Oroville estimates the project will use 200 I'm sorry, 522

14:05

tons of rubber material, the equivalent of 52,000 tires. To date, the tire derived aggregate program has kept over

14:13

45,000 tons or 4.5 million waste tires out of landfill to turn them into new materials for community projects.

14:22

And we have one proposed change to the waste tire cleanup grant program criteria. The five year plan allocates 1.25 million

14:30

to help with local cleanup of illegally dumped waste tires. Local governments, special districts,

14:35

qualifying tribes and joint powers authorities are all eligible. Staff proposes increase revising the ranking criteria

14:42

to increase the cost per tire to \$10. If oversubscribed, applicants will be evaluated for awards based on the lowest cost per tire.

14:51

Application. Should be out in March with an April submission deadline. Awards are expected in August.

14:57

Finally, we're awarding 10 million to 14 applicants under the Local Conservation Corps.

15:03

SB 1013 Grant Program. The program received a one time \$10 million appropriation

15:09

to support local beverage container, litter reduction and recycling projects

15:14

with new investments from bottle bill reforms including SB 1013 and EB 179 budget

15:21

funds, CalRecycle is supporting recycling businesses and innovation innovative recycling programs to make redemption easier for consumers.

15:29

The Redemption Innovation Grant Program Application Application period is open.

There's 40 million available in grant awards to boost mobile recycling,

15:38

add more reverse vending machines or backdrop programs. Also support for existing and new recycling center businesses,

15:45

new opportunities for dealer and dealers and community service programs and outreach efforts.

15:50

The application deadline for this new program is April 16th. We also wanted to

15:57

announce that the Workforce Development Grant program is open. There's \$5 million in grant awards that are available to support employment

16:05

and training for new workforce to provide California consumers with convenient opportunities to redeem CRB.

16:11

Applicants will be required to submit a workforce development plan and applicants are due on March 5th.

16:17

Back to you, Maria. Thank you, Zoe. This afternoon, CalRecycle will host its latest webinar on these new funding

16:24

opportunities to boost convenient beverage container recycling and remanufacturing in California.

16:30

The funding is part of the state's larger bottle bill reforms, which includes the expansion of the program to include wine and liquor.

16:38

Beverage container recycling. Deputy Director Amy Cameron has a few announcements.

16:44

Good morning. Thank you, Maria.

16:50

CalRecycle continues its extensive education and outreach efforts for new and existing program participants.

16:57

CalRecycles next webinar for wineries is set for this Friday from 10 a.m.

17:02

to noon. Staff will demonstrate how beverage manufacturers and distributors use CalRecycle's online system

17:10

for monthly reporting and pain of processing fees and CRV.

17:15

We will also collect and answer any questions. As we are learning as we add 4 to 5000 beverage manufacturers.

17:24

There are many unique questions that we may need to research, so we will work with you to take any and all of your questions.

17:32

And then. Set up a method to answer those questions for the group at large.

17:37

To date, the department has held 18 informational sessions for recycling centers and certified processors in January

17:45

to reiterate program requirements and answer any questions. Those sessions will continue this month

17:51

with our next webinar set for February 27th. Our Spanish webinar starts at 10 a.m.

17:59

with the English. Webinar at 1 p.m. You can register online to participate and sign up

18:05

to our listserv for instant program updates. This month, CalRecycle also published our certification

18:13

and registration report and our Compliance and Enforcement Quarterly report.

18:18

They are linked to today's agenda. Thanks. Back to you, Maria.

18:24

Thank you, Amy. A quick reminder, CalRecycle upgraded our public comment process. Here's how to submit your comments.

18:32

California wants your input. on recycling and trash pollution Issues. Join CalRecycle's decision making process by making a live public comment

18:40

on any of today's monthly public meeting. Agenda items in person or by phone. Microphones are available for those of you in the room with in-person comment

18:48

running remotely. You can call in with your comment. Just click the public meeting banner at the top of our website

18:53

and click the public comments button for step by step caller instructions. We will address live public comment at the end of the meeting.

19:02

You can access the public comment portal through our monthly public meeting web page. The web page is also available in Spanish.

19:10

Next, CalRecycle is required to review and either approve or disapprove each countywide or regional agency.

19:16

Integrated Waste Management Plant Plan five year Review Report. These reports are comprehensive and

19:24

analyze. They analyze planning documents which may be impacted by changes to demographics, disposal capacities, funding and diversion programs.

19:33

Napa County submitted a five year review report for its countywide Integrated Waste Management Plan.

19:38

No revisions to the county's planning documents are necessary at this time. This item has been approved now

19:46

to pending solid waste entire facilities, permits and emergency waivers. Here's a quick overview of California facility safety standards,

19:53

plus a statewide facility permit and emergency waiver Update from environmental program manager Paulina Lawrence.

20:03

Protecting the health of Californians and their land, Food, water and air is a big job.

20:09

Local, state and federal agencies play different roles to enforce public health and environmental safety standards.

20:15

In California, solid waste local enforcement agencies process applications issue and enforce permits for solid waste facilities.

20:24

These include landfills, transfer stations, compost facilities, or similar operations.

20:30

CalRecycle must verify permits are consistent with state requirements. Permits can only address areas within the authority

20:37

of local enforcement agencies and CalRecycle. Check out the link below for more detailed information.

20:44

Emergency waivers allow temporary changes to solid waste permit requirements in response to local or state disasters.

20:52

Local enforcement agencies may approve the waivers which are good for up to 120 days and may be extended.

20:59

Ca Recycle must review approved waivers and can condition limit, suspend or terminate them.

21:06

Check out the link for more detailed information for waste tire facilities. CalRecycle processes, applications, issues and enforces waste tire permits.

21:17

These include requirements to make sure tires are stored and processed in a way that reduces potential threats

21:23

from fire and disease carrying vectors like mosquitoes. Check out the link for more detailed information

21:31

for this month's agenda for the concurred and issued permit actions for Yolo County on January 16th, 2024,

21:40

the department agreed with the local enforcement agency and concurred on a revised solid waste facilities

21:46

permit for Yolo County Central Landfill. Action was needed January 19,

21:52

2024 for Ventura County. On January 16, 2024, the Department agreed with the local enforcement agency

22:01

and concurred on a revised solid waste facilities permit for Mountain View Organics Waste Processing Facility.

22:08

Action was needed February 3rd, 2024, for Orange County.

22:14

On January 30th, 2024, the department agreed with the local enforcement agency and concurred on a modified solid

22:22

waste facilities permit from Madison Materials Inc. Action was needed February 3rd, 2024, for San Diego County.

22:31

On February seven, 2024, the department agreed with the local enforcement agency and concurred on a revised compostable

22:39

materials handling facility permit for Otay Landfill composting operation.

22:44

Action was needed March 10 2024. Continuing on this month's

22:52

agenda, for San Bernardino County is One Stop Landscape Supply Center.

22:59

This is a revised compostable materials handling facility permit. Action is needed by April 7th, 2024.

23:09

The department also received several emergency waivers. First one is for San Diego County

23:15

for Fallbrook Recycling and Transfer Station. On January 25th, 2024,

23:22

the San Diego County Department of Environmental Health and Quality, the local enforcement agency, granted an emergency waiver to increase

23:30

the permitted daily tonnage from 500 tons per day to 792

23:35

tons per day until May 24th, 2024. This is due to the emergency resulting from the winter storms

23:43

also in San Diego County for Otay Landfill on January 26, 2024

23:49

the San Diego County Department of Environmental Health and Quality. The local enforcement agency granted an emergency waiver

23:56

to increase the permitted daily tonnage from 6700 tons per day to 8700 tons

24:03

per day and 35,000 tons per week to 47,000 tons per week until May 25th, 2024.

24:12

This is also due to the emergency resulting from the winter storms. San Diego County Escondido Resource Recovery.

24:20

On February 15, 2024, the San Diego County Department of Environmental Health and Quality Local Enforcement Agency

24:29

granted an emergency waiver of the permitted daily tonnage from 3223 tons per day to 4500 tons per day

24:39

until June 14, 2024. This is due to the emergency resulting from the winter storms.

24:48

For West Miramar Sanitary Landfill on January 28, 2024.

24:54

the City of San Diego Development Services, local enforcement agency granted an emergency waiver of the types of waste accepted

25:02

until May 27, 2024. Due to the emergency resulting from these winter storms.

25:08

For EDCO Recovery and Transfer Station on January 29, 2024,

25:15

The City of San Diego Development Services Department local enforcement agency, granted an emergency waiver

25:22

of the permitted hours of operation from 5 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday to Sunday to 5 a.m.

25:28

to 10 p.m. Monday through Sunday until May 28, 2024.

25:33

This is due to the emergency resulting from the winter storms for Sycamore Landfill on January 29, 2024.

25:42

The City of San Diego Development Services Department local enforcement agency graduated an emergency waiver

25:49

to increase the permitted daily tonnage from 5000 tons per day to 7000 tons per day, and the permitted hours of operation from 6 a.m.

25:58

to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday and 6 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday and Sunday.

26:05

Changing this to 24 hours a day, seven days a week until May 28, 2024.

26:11

And this is also due to the emergency resulting from the winter storm for Los Angeles County,

26:17

EDCO Recovery and Transfer Station on February six, 2024,

26:23

the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health local Enforcement agency granted an emergency waiver of the permitted daily tonnage

26:31

from 1500 tons per day to 2500 tons per day until May six, 2024.

26:39

This is due to the emergency resulting from the winter storms.

26:49

You can find more information on any of today's agenda items. Just go to CalRecycle's Home page at CalRecycle.ca.gov and click on either

26:57

the public meeting web banner at the top of the home page or the link halfway down the home page

27:02

to get to the agenda and associated public notices. Now it's time for public comments.

27:08

First, we'll take comments from the public present in our Sacramento CalEPA headquarters meeting room today.

27:13

After that will take comments from those participating by phone. And just as a reminder, your microphones will stay muted

27:19

until you're called on by the last four digits of your phone number. Also, please mute your webcast if you're calling in to avoid

27:26

potential feedback issues. Are there any comments in the room? You have a microphone over on your right hand side.

27:40

Good morning, everyone. Veronica Pardo, Researcher, Recovery Coalition. I just wanted to extend my gratitude to Director Wagoner for the last three years

27:48

and your leadership during this time, and we thank you for your experience

27:54

and your obviously your passion around organics, waste recycling, and

27:59

also want to thank your staff for being very responsive for some recent issues during this transition.

28:04

And we look forward to work working with all of you, of course, on SB 54 development and a number of other issues.

28:11

So I just want to extend my gratitude. Thank you. Thank you so much, Veronica. I appreciate your constant partnership and support.

28:19

So thank you so much for the kind words.

28:29

Shirley Fredericks from Nevada County. And I want to extend my thanks to you've been most welcoming

28:35

in these in these public meetings. And I appreciate all the work. I know just watching the flurry of bills that have come through

28:42

in the last three years, as you know, it's a lot it's a lot to handle and it's a lot for us. And Nevada County.

28:51

And one thing we know, being a small county and proceeding, we have some difficulty.

28:57

I've been looking at how do we how do we solve our problems? Like, you know, the big one is, is the CRV.

29:04

We have nothing. We have we have one buyback center and that's at the transfer station, which is anywhere between 20 and 45 minutes from anybody's house,

29:12

almost anybody south. And so I've looked at grants to see, you know, what's possible.

29:17

But they're all now we're really meant for. Big. Big counties. They're not meant for a little county. So what are we going to do for people like us?

29:24

You know, I would like to do what Oregon, they have these cooperative shows.

29:29

How do we do that? You know, we need something. And I'm trying to get neighborhoods, you know, little people in neighborhoods who want to have college funds

29:37

or whatever, you know, or the homeless people. I'm trying to get little people to come in and take advantage of it.

29:43

But we need your help to figure out how to get the money to start like a cooperative or something like that,

29:49

because waste management simply can't do it. We now have an in-town recycling center

29:54

only because the roof collapsed on the one that was there. And so they have this only for a short time until the transfer station.

30:02

Don't count on it. Right. But yeah, we want them to do a buyback center there. Well, we don't have personnel,

30:07

we don't have money, we don't have anything. Okay, I need help with how do we do this? Okay. We would like to I mean, people asked me, well, what do they do with all that?

30:15

You know, \$297 million in the fund. So, you know, you get to answer that for me, you know.

30:21

Well, I actually Shirley, this is a I so appreciate in your timing is very, very good on all of this.

30:28

So the legislature passed last year, SB 1013 by Senator Atkins last year, year before time flies when you're having fun

30:35

but can't recycle staff have been working very diligently and one of the reforms that SB 1013, 1013 did to major things

30:44

and a number of other things along with partnering legislation from Assemblymember Wood AB 1311 and then Senator Dodd, SB 343

30:53

sorry, running through numbers because the numbers are a little less relevant than what they are doing in totality.

30:58

So a number of new beverage containers are being brought into the system, which is fantastic. Everything from wine bottles and distilled spirit

31:05

containers to the large juice containers are coming into the system. But to your point, SB 1013 created

31:13

the ability for retailers to create dealer cooperatives. So we are currently finishing up.

31:20

Cooperatives, Deloraine, whatever. So the system that you referenced in Oregon is a cooperative.

31:28

It is a private company, though, and they run all of the recycling infrastructure.

31:33

Privately, California system is a little bit different. We have a number of private companies that have

31:42

takeback centers, right? So what we did is to supplement that as opposed to do away with the existing infrastructure

31:51

is we created an opportunity for our retail establishments in underserved or unserved areas of the state in rural areas.

32:00

This will be hopefully very successful as well as urban, very compressed areas

32:05

to create alternative systems for take back. So rather than having to have a brick and mortar

32:13

recycling center that is open X number of hours a week, that may work for 70% of the state, for the 30% of the state

32:22

that is unserved or underserved, creating a more flexible structure where we could have reverse vending machines.

32:28

Mobile recycling. Yes. So hopefully Nevada County will be able to and the the retailers in Nevada

32:36

County will be able to join the dealer cooperative or create their own dealer cooperative to create some of these opportunities

32:44

for innovative solutions for your residents. So you don't have to drive 20 or 40 minutes to

32:50

to redeem your 100 containers that maybe get \$0.50 or a dollar or \$2 worth of.

32:58

That's part of the public. Yes. Is it worth? It is exactly. So I think, you know, we and a huge a huge thank you to the legislature and

33:08

and Senator Atkin's office of looking at those areas of the state that perhaps the existing structure didn't work for and

33:17

and a huge thank you to our partners in the retail establishment for coming forward and

33:22

say we would like to run this ourselves and we would like to build systems that work for our residents and for our customers.

33:30

And so those regulations will be going into their formal rulemaking here in the next couple of weeks.

33:37

Which means eight months or a year. Oh, yes. No, no, no. But by 2025, this will they will have a plan in place with this

33:44

with Cal Recycle and the dealer cooperatives will be rolling out and different solutions for different parts of the state will start showing up.

33:52

All right. So I appreciate the question for my last meeting. This is a great question. This is something that I'm very excited about.

33:57

I worked on beverage container recycling reforms for most of my career, so I'm very excited for this one to come to fruition.

34:04

And further, the legislature also appropriated money to help

34:10

the dealers invest in the infrastructure necessary to do this. So it isn't just that the cooperatives will be in place,

34:17

but those reverse vending machines or mobile recycling opportunities or backdrop

34:24

opportunities, depending on the plan that we will be using. Part of the surplus in the fund to help facilitate

34:31

the the start up cost to those dealer cooperatives. Wonderful. Wonderful. Bravo.

34:36

I appreciate it was like a softball question for me. I appreciate it. Good. And you also mentioned backdrop, because that's the other thing

34:44

that I'm trying to work on. What are you saying that the reverse vending machines could do both.

34:49

They could take in the plastic bag thing. And so there are different technologies and sort of depending on the location,

34:57

you know, they they have different costs associated with them. So depending on the location in which dealers are getting together,

35:04

the plan will be really developed to utilize, hopefully the innovation that's most appropriate for that, for that locality,

35:12

the backdrop systems and those machines are pretty big and require maintenance and and some other things.

35:18

So, you know, the the benefit of having our retailers

35:23

as a leader and partner in developing the plan for this is that they have so much experience in logistics and reverse logistics

35:32

that they will were are the are the right entities to help develop the plan for the different localities.

35:38

Great. Good. And so how do I follow up? Do I go to Atkin's office? Do I come to you.

Know, I thank you.

35:45

You keep coming to Cal Recycle. Zoe Deputy Director Zoe Heller and Amy Cameron are overseeing the development of this.

35:54

If you look at our website, you will see the in the next couple of weeks, you will see the regulations

36:00

that will be going into the formal rulemaking process and you can monitor and participate in the regulatory process.

36:08

Good. And you'll hear the the the other stakeholders input on those regulations moving forward.

36:15

And so again, by the end of 2024, we should have those regulations adopted, knock on wood and

36:22

and be well on our way in 2025. I'm delighted. Thank you. That will help us a lot. A lot.

36:28

I mean, well, there are low income people who really do depend on this.

36:33

And like my little neighbor, oh, she opened a college education fund so all the neighbors are giving her anyway.

36:39

Great. Thank you. I will follow up on that. And I just want to tell you what the other thing that we're doing with

36:46

the bags is education. Now, it kind of was on what's 2016, you know,

36:52

and that it was off during the COVID and it was back on. And I go to the stores and, you know, they just rip off the plastic bags.

36:59

I don't even think about anything else, you know. And so I've just made a presentation, the Grass Valley City Council,

37:06

to ask for their help to work with our stores, to educate the customers with signs or whatever, and educate the clerks not to just have a plastic bag.

37:15

So you know that to me that's a really important piece. And I don't know what you're doing, you know, statewide.

37:22

But, you know, it seems to me this is a place that if you want to reduce the trash like you do, this is the place that we can do it because there's nowhere to reprocess.

37:30

I mean, that's one of my other things is when are we going to get a reprocess things down center here?

37:35

Yeah. You're you're you're hitting all of the hot buttons today. I appreciate that. So

37:41

a assemblymember, I'm looking at Mike. Who is Ben?

37:47

Is it Bennett's bill? No. Uh. I my.

37:53

There is a bill. I'm sorry. Is not Assembly Member Bennett's go. I got that wrong. The the.

37:58

Bag ban. The original. No, the one that.

38:03

So there was legislation introduced last week that will actually have a ban on plastic bags. And I apologize to the member who introduced it.

38:11

My brain is freezing up this morning. I did see that. But it's only just been introduced. Right.

38:17

The bill has just been introduced and we still have to fight the industry right.

38:23

Um. I think there is an important dialog that happens in the legislature around every initiative.

38:33

I will say that the grocers are on board with where you're going

38:39

because they are either in support or co-sponsoring the legislature. Oh good. Yes. So

38:46

who is it that can't. I don't know. With experience.

38:51

Oh, man. Okay, I'm not going to say it. Members Breakspear. Okay.

38:57

Oh, my goodness. The grocers introduced it with assembly.

39:03

We were Blakespear and assemblymember Bauer Kahan. Thank you. It's very important to me,

39:09

being a former legislative staffer, to get the member's names right. So we have exceptional leadership in the legislature

39:15

right now who are all on board with doing away with plastic bags in California.

39:22

And again, the grocers are very much on board with this and share your frustration with with the difficulty of

39:31

recycling infrastructure. And so they are either sponsoring or very supportive. They were at the press. Really.

39:37

If I look at that bill, do I get the name of the Grocers Association or maybe who knows

39:43

where I could. Put my goodness. But he does not represent the punching. A few more buttons here. Yes. So if you go on to you can Google a California plastic

39:53

bag bill and through the legend phone, you can get all of the sponsors, etc..

39:59

Okay. Yeah, because, you know, I'm sure that's at least some of our stores. I mean, the big ones are Safeway's.

40:05

I mean, they're you know, they must be part of that. Or 100% that. Yeah, I think the retailers in California

40:10

are very much in favor of a more sustainable solution. I think I've hit my highlights. Thank you.

40:17

It's lovely to see you. Thank you. See you. Well, good, good, good.

40:22

Thank you. Thank you. We have any more public comments in our meeting room today?

40:32

Okay. So now we will take public comments by phone. If you are calling in again, your microphone will stay muted

40:39

until you're called on by the last four digits of your phone number. Once you're called on, please mute your computer sound before

40:46

you start speaking to avoid an echo. Do we have any callers?

40:51

Yes, Murray, we have two callers. A caller with the last four digits, 6607. I'm going to ask you to unmute right now

40:59

and go ahead when you're ready. Next up will be caller number 3162.

41:05

CALLER 6607. Can you hear me

41:10

or just give them one minute in case they're having a problem?

41:18

Okay, go ahead. CALLER 3162. I see you're on muted. Hi, this is Valerie Lake.

41:24

I'm with one Earth Recycling and we are super excited about the grant that's being discussed later this afternoon.

41:31

And I'm hoping to get clarity on whether the projects included in the grant

41:36

are limited to the mobile reverse vending and backdrop solutions

41:43

because it's unclear whether or not a recycler has to have the solutions or if other things are also considered

41:51

in as long as they're meeting, you know, recycling goals.

41:57

Thank you for the question. I think what I would do is encourage you to attend the meeting this afternoon

42:02

and ask the question specifically to the grants there so that everyone who is interested in the grants has the benefit of your question as well.

42:10

So if you wouldn't mind attending that meeting, that that is the right forum for these questions.

42:15

But thank you so much. All right. Thank you. You bet. Thank you. That's a profound comments.

42:25

Okay. So, Rachel. Well, I just I won't keep everybody this morning.

42:31

I know it's a busy week, but I just thought as this is my last public meeting with Cal Recycle, that I would take the moment

42:39

to say thank you and goodbye to all of our stakeholders and really just highlight what an incredible experience

42:48

it has been for me to be director of this incredible organization.

42:53

I came on board to CalRecycle in December of 2020, in the height of the shutdown for for the pandemic and

43:04

it was a very challenging time for the state, a very challenging time for the planet.

43:09

And I came on board a very challenging time for the the issues that that we care so deeply about.

43:17

And I have been so incredibly honored, privileged, impressed,

43:24

challenged and fulfilled in this position, working with this incredible team of people.

43:31

CalRecycle is now nearly 1000 employees. And we have many new employees.

43:37

We have many who have been here for decades, if not just a few years.

43:43

And every single employee that I've had the pleasure of interacting with

43:48

has brought 110% to this job and 110% to the issues that we care

43:53

so deeply about our zero waste future, our circular economy, our fight against climate change.

44:00

And so it is with, as I said in my email, a heavy

44:07

but full heart that I step down from this position. And it was a very hard decision for me to make.

44:15

But the right one for me at this point in my life and the things that my family needs right now,

44:23

I wasn't going to do this, but I think it's worth after just many conversations over the course of the long weekend,

44:30

I don't typically engage in

44:36

dealing with rumors, but I was not pushed out of my position. I had had conversations with the governor's office about things

44:44

that are happening in my personal life, and my family needs me at home right now.

44:50

And while I wasn't going to bring that up because what's happening with my family and my children

44:56

is really for my family, it felt worth mentioning,

45:02

as I know that there have been a number of rumors floating around out in the lobby corps over the last week.

45:11

I think all of you who are here and engaging and working to make a California

45:21

in every single corner of our state. And thank you. Thank you. Thank you for being my partner.

45:26

For the past three years, I have truly, truly enjoyed being part of this department.

45:32

I have been so incredibly fulfilled and being part of the Newsom administration from the very beginning in the last five years.

45:38

And my 27 years of service to the state of California have been so incredibly amazing and awesome.

45:46

And it has been a very fulfilling career.

45:51

So I hope to work with all of you again in the future. I care so immensely about the work that we do here.

45:58

And again, thank you for your partnership over the past three years, five years. Some of you like my 20 plus years,

46:06

and I look forward to seeing you in the future. So thank you.